

**Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, deleted text is indicated by ~~striketrough~~. Changes are identified by a change bar in the margin.

**Listing Of Claims:**

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

1                   23. (Previously presented) A storage system comprising:  
2                   a first I/O port for connection to a communication network;  
3                   at least a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port for connection to the  
4 communication network, the first and second I/O ports each receiving write requests;  
5                   an array of media for storing information, the array comprising a plurality of disk  
6 storage units organized into a plurality of logical disks;  
7                   a plurality of data paths, each data path being selectively connectable between any  
8 one of the logical disks and any one of the I/O ports; and  
9                   an allocator to allocate one of the data paths between one of the logical disks and  
10 one of the I/O ports based upon a data rate capability of said one data path to thereby provide a  
11 desired quality of service.

1                   24. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of  
2 media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage  
3 | system allocates individual ones of the array of media to individual ones of the data paths to  
4 provide the desired quality of service.

1                   25. (Canceled)

1                   26. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of  
2 media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different  
3 speeds of operation.

1                   27. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage  
2 system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a  
3 data rate capability of a communication link coupled to one of the data paths.

1                   28. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired  
2 quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates  
3 individual ones of the array of media based upon a guaranteed bandwidth.

1                   29. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:  
2 an array of storage media;  
3 at least a first I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port, each  
4 having a network connection operable to connect the array to a network with a desired quality of  
5 service;

6 a plurality of data paths to selectively couple the I/O ports to the storage media,  
7 wherein a data path between one or more of the array of storage media and the network  
8 connection is selected to provide sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of  
9 service.

1                   30. (Previously presented) A method for allocating resources in a storage  
2 system, the storage system comprising a first of I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the  
3 first I/O port and an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by data paths, the  
4 method comprising:  
5 establishing a data path between a storage device of the array and one of the I/O  
6 ports, wherein said one of the I/O ports is coupled to the network connection; the data path being

7 selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data capacity of the storage device and  
8 data rate capability of the network connection; and  
9 selecting a storage device of the array based upon the data capacity and the data  
10 rate capability of the network connection.

1 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
2 establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to  
3 accommodate the desired quality of service.

1 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
2 establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to  
3 accommodate a data capacity of the array.

1 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting  
2 ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data  
3 capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.